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TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
200TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION
ACT OF 2007—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 3432, a bill that would authorize the establishment of a federal commission to coordinate activities for the commemoration of the bicentennial anniversary of the U.S. Transatlantic Slave Trade Act.

Next year will mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in the United States. Although the transatlantic slave trade represents a dark aspect of not only U.S. history, but world history, it provides an opportunity to celebrate the progress with human rights, civil rights, and race relations in our great country. In addition to celebrating progress, the anniversary offers an opportunity to educate and remind people all over the world of the history slavery played in making race such a dominant reality in our history and the role of the slave trade.

The establishment of a federal commission to coordinate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade commemoration activities would assist with reminding and informing people of the past and present day implications of slavery in the development of America as a nation.

At the present time, people are rightfully consumed and burdened with issues that are impacting their personal lives, as well as, societal issues including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorism, quality healthcare, education, and crime. Due to this, I believe people would welcome being refreshed by something to celebrate versus something to worry about; especially because African Americans have made and continue to make immeasurable contributions and advances in our great country since the abolishment of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery. Young people need to have an understanding of and develop an appreciation for our country's past, which would hopefully instill pride and hope for tomorrow.

I thank Congressman PAYNE for introducing this bill and encourage my colleagues to support it. I also encourage people all over the world, especially young people to learn about the history of slavery.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT
RELATING TO REUNIFICATION
OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 405, of which I am a cosponsor, which expresses the strong support of the House of Represent-

atives for the implementation of the July 8, 2006, U.N.-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus. As a co-founder and co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I want to thank Representative BILIRAKIS, my fellow co-chair, for introducing the bill and working to bring it to the floor today.

On July 8, 2006, President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed, under the auspices of the United Nations, to a set of principles to begin a process of discussions aimed at ending the division of Cyprus. The agreement calls for a commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions. The agreement also called for the establishment of technical committees and working groups to examine and discuss a variety of issues including those that affect the daily lives of the people.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus, and I hope that passage of H. Res. 405 by the House today will be a positive influence in moving this process forward in preparation for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the unification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BELOIT CIVIC THEATRE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of an organization that has influenced the advancement of cultural opportunities for the people of Beloit, Wisconsin. Originally envisioned as a showcase of local talents, today the Beloit Civic Theatre has grown into a remarkable attraction stimulating growth and support of the arts within the community and surrounding area.

Initially named the Beloit Little Theatre Guild upon its founding in 1932, the organization began its tradition of service with the production of the Whole Town's Talking. The group concluded its first season with another performance and 250 dedicated members. Word of the outstanding organization spread quickly, and the guild membership grew to 1,300 by the following year, the largest of any community theater in the State. In 1948, the name was changed to the Beloit Civic Theatre, as it stands today.

Although the Beloit Civic Theatre was not incorporated as a non-profit organization until 1952, they have given back to the community since their very first season. Today their profits support a scholarship fund to cultivate the talents of graduating high school students pursuing a field within the arts.

Throughout the past 75 years, the Beloit Civic Theatre has undoubtedly gone above and beyond their mission to bring the people of Beloit unique and distinctive performances.

Enjoyed at the Elizabeth Reinholz Theater by a variety of audiences, the presentation of timeless classics, modern masterpieces, and original works has advanced more than the amazing talents of aspiring actors, but developed a desire and love for theater within the Beloit community.

On this 75th anniversary of the Beloit Civic Theatre's founding, I applaud its devoted staff, faithful volunteers, and talented and dedicated performers who have nurtured and supported this indispensable organization of cultural growth and entertainment for the past 75 years. We look forward to 75 more.

ON THE 2007 ANGELS IN ADOPTION
PROGRAM

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on October 4, 2007, I had the great pleasure of seeing one of the finest constituents of the Second District of Kansas honored as an Angel in Adoption. This award was given by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, of which I am proud to be a member. The story of the Second District's Angel in Adoption, Stuart Griffiths, is a story of hard work, commitment, and humility. It is a story that I am proud to share today.

Stuart started working with children during college when he was a wrestling coach. He gave rides to and from practice to a young man living in a group home and decided there was more that he could do to help. He began volunteering at the young man's group home—helping with homework, playing ball, whatever was needed—until he was asked to become the assistant director. After working in public schools in Lawrence, Kansas, he returned to his hometown of Clay Center and became a foster parent. Over the years Stuart has hosted 32 foster children. Eventually he was told by a caseworker, "You ought to become a social worker because you're already doing it so you might as well get paid for it." So Stuart returned to school and earned a degree in social work. He jokes that he made this decision before anyone told him how much social workers earn. All joking aside, he has devoted the last 8 years of his life to working in child protective services.

Part of what makes Stuart's story unique is that he has made a conscious effort to help children with special needs. He told caseworkers he "wanted the kids nobody else wants," and they listened. He was contacted by social workers from surrounding communities to help children who needed extra care and attention. Over the years, he has helped children who were victims of abuse or had behavioral problems grow and mature into successful and talented adults.

Stuart now has five adopted sons, ranging in age from 14 to 19. Another remarkable aspect of his story is that he is a single parent. In addition to his job and responsibilities as a parent, Stuart also runs the football little league in his community and coaches his own team. He is the epitome of a public servant. Despite his tremendous contribution to the community, Stuart is incredibly humble. In his stories he continually talks about the many accomplishments of his sons. When asked about

the incredible commitment he has made, he simply says, "I wanted to take the next step."

I was thrilled to meet with Stuart and his five sons in Washington on Thursday. I know we both hope that this award and Stuart's recognition will raise awareness about the importance of adoption and foster care. Stuart has been able to create a stable, brighter future for his children, who might otherwise have drifted from family to family in the foster care system, never really having someone to call "Dad." For me, Stuart's words have the most resonance—"I just hope this encourages other folks to adopt."

RECOGNIZING MRS. OLA MAE
McFATRIDGE

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Ola Mae McFATRIDGE, a long-time member of the district, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Born Ola Mae Kerr outside of Celina, TX, on September 25, 1907, she was raised on a farm where she learned early on the importance of education, family, and hard work. In 1931 she married the late Carl McFATRIDGE and went on to have two children, Bill McFATRIDGE and the late Martha Dobson.

Following graduation in 1926, she taught for 5 years before marrying Carl. While Carl was serving as a marine in the Pacific Theatre in World War II, Ola Mae assumed the role of store manager of the family business. Though she retired from full-time work in 1994 at the age of 87, she continues to be an active and valued member of her community. She is the loving and beloved matriarch of 36 descendants. Among these descendants are educators, ministers, law enforcement and safety personnel, and business professionals.

Ola Mae's life has been marked by an unwavering dedication to family, education, hard work, and faith. This last century has been a remarkable one, and she has borne witness to it all. On behalf of her family, friends, and all those she continues to touch and inspire, I would like to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mrs. Ola Mae McFATRIDGE on this, the centennial of her birth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 949 on H. Res. 32 I am not recorded because of flight delays from Michigan to Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 32.

HONORING BOB LARGESESS AND THE
FOOTSTEPS IN HISTORY PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Robert Largess who has completed a historic 4-day stage coach journey from the scenic shores of the Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island to beautiful Kelley Square in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Largess has driven an 1800's style horse-drawn stagecoach along the Blackstone River Valley National Corridor to commemorate the third annual Footsteps in History Program. This program is a week-long celebration of the cultural and historic heritage of the Blackstone Valley. Footsteps in History was created by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Long before the railroad and canal boats came to the Blackstone Valley, people used stagecoaches to make the journey between Providence and Worcester. His 4-day journey will be the first such trip in about 180 years and aims to raise public awareness about the Blackstone Valley and its place in history. Mr. Largess's ride has also served to educate our children and our community about the important role that the Blackstone River and the Blackstone Canal have played in the industrialization of the United States. He will end his journey at the starting point of the Canal and he has been at the center of a communitywide effort to restore the section of the canal that is now buried under the streets of Worcester.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor the work of Mr. Largess and members of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for the work they do to help bring alive the rich history of the Blackstone Valley.

RECOGNIZING THE LAKE MURRAY
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the South Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce and, specifically, the Lake Murray Junior Chamber for their leadership and service in our community during this year's Junior Chamber Mission Week.

In 1929, the United States Junior Chamber established Junior Chamber Mission Week, or "Jaycee Week", to celebrate its founding with seven days of public relations opportunities for its member chapters. Each day of the week, they highlight a different basic tenet that the chamber has adopted. These tenets are as follows: a faith in God, the purpose of brotherhood, free enterprise, government laws, human personality, and service to humanity.

For over 70 years, the South Carolina Junior Chamber has been actively involved in our community by devoting time to developing fu-

ture community leaders. Over those seven decades, it has contributed to humanitarian projects such as Jaycee Camp Hope, Family Talk and JAYS. As a former member of the Jaycee-West Columbia Jaycees for over 20 years and as former state legal counsel of the South Carolina Jaycees, I know firsthand of the positive impact of South Carolina Jaycees.

I wish to thank Lake Murray Chapter President Angie Wedekind, South Carolina State President Scott Bryant, the National Junior Chamber President Chris Oldham, and the Junior Chamber International President Scott Greenlee. Their leadership is helping to shape today's young people into successful leaders of tomorrow.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
HERMAN M. MAISEL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Herman M. Maisel, a devoted family man and dedicated community leader.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Mr. Maisel was a standout athlete at Murphy High School in football, basketball, and baseball. After graduating in 1942, he enlisted in the Marines. He served in the Pacific theater until the end of World War II and was cited for his bravery.

After returning home, he attended the University of Alabama using the G.I. Bill and received a degree in education. Once again, he was a standout athlete, named to the all-star teams in intramural football, basketball, and baseball. While in graduate school at the university, he coached both the freshman football and basketball teams.

In 1952, Mr. Maisel was named assistant football coach and head basketball coach at his alma mater, Murphy High School. Under his leadership, the Murphy High School basketball team racked up 91 wins and only 12 losses, winning three city championships and tying for another. The team also won three district titles and the 1956 Alabama State Basketball Championship, a first for a Mobile school. He also coached the Murphy golf team, which won the state championship in 1956.

With a desire to be a better provider for his family, Mr. Maisel entered the real estate business. In 1971, he acquired Staples, Pake & Griffin Real Estate in Mobile, changing the name to Herman Maisel & Company. This company became one of the top 100 shopping center developers in the United States, with holdings in 14 states. Additionally, he was a founding partner in Mobile Greyhound Park.

Mr. Maisel was actively involved in his community, contributing to numerous civic and charitable endeavors. He was a member of the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, serving on its board of directors, and a past president of the Ahavas Chesed Synagogue in Mobile.

There is no doubt—Mr. Herman Maisel's contributions to Mobile and the state of Alabama will be long remembered. He loved life